

has formed your insides, because today it's written all over your face.

Another memorable question (and I know you're waiting for the third song, which I'll get to) was posed to me by the mother of one of Jesse's friends. We had taken the boys on a short ski trip—husbands not invited—and were preparing dinner. We were talking about family, kids, work and juggling—what else—and she asked me, "What sustains you?" I was taken aback; I'd never really thought about being sustained, let alone what did it. I thought a minute and replied, "love of those around me". When it comes right down to it, the love and support of those around us provides the sustenance for us to go on and do what we do.

The point of sharing these two questions and answers is that the self-knowledge—the seeing clearly, even of obstacles, that you are capping off with your diploma today is a reward in itself. Obstacles seen through the rainbow of the light of knowledge are manageable. Take a few minutes over the next week and ask your self these questions—what has formed you, and what sustains you?—and you will take great pride I am sure in your answers, and appreciate even more this great day.

Now for the third song. I actually sang this at a fundraiser for Bill Gray. It was at the Franklin Institute. The acoustics were bad, and everyone kept talking during the speeches. No one could hear the speakers, who were praising Bill for his years in Congress, as he was retiring to head the United Negro College Fund. So I decided to sing, and I sang "Oh, the Lord Is". I thanked Bill for using the tools God had given him to benefit us all. But I thought of doing this because this song is my joyful tune. It gives glory, yet has humility in it. It says that all we need, Lord, is the tools, just give us the tools and we'll do the rest. We'll do the hard work, sweat the sweat, take the time, apply the creativity, nurture, plant, prune, water, and cause the tree to grow. Give us the brains, the brawn, the fortitude, the courage, the hope, and we'll do the rest.

And, when I would leave a college exam on which I had guessed right as to what was going to be asked, I thanked God for the tools. And after a fairly short and very successful childbirth, I thanked God for the tools.

Well, today, I do hope you, too will take the time, to look around at all you have accomplished, at the people who have sustained and supported you, at the year you have put into doing all the things that wear you down and yet build you up, and give thanks for the tools.

HONORING MARJORIE
HIRSCHBERG, POET AND ADVOCATE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my good fortune to represent Monmouth County, N.J., a beautiful, seashore county that produced our current Poet Laureate, Robert Pinsky.

Another accomplished poet also called Monmouth County home. That was Marjorie Hirschberg who died last year at the age of 54, a victim of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's disease.

Before succumbing to that most vicious, crippling disease, Marjorie wrote poetry on her computer, touching her cheek to a wand until she could no longer even move her head.

Her mother said that through all of this struggle, Marjorie exhibited a bravery and spirit that gave strength to everyone—mother, father, husband and children and enabled them to cope with her rapid deterioration. "Bravo, my child," said her mother in a recent letter to me.

Well, I want to say "bravo" too, for the excellent and moving poetry that Marjorie Hirschberg produced and I would like to share two of these poems with my colleagues. I would also like to include an article that appeared in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that highlights some of her many other contributions to the arts, women and children. The poems follow:

MY WONDERFUL MOTHER IS EIGHTY TODAY

I would like to drive her through my neighborhood

Honking the horn to let everyone know
How proud I am of her.

Visit all my friends with her
Accepting tea and cake

Or turkish coffee

As tokens of their love and respect. Then

I would take her to lunch some place

Where the prices would scandalize her.

We will talk of bess as suffragette,

Of pearl and the coat and evey and the wagon. Sid

Sid and the store and millie's phone call on
January 1. And Bobby's announcement of joy
to the world.

Then we get to newborn Ethan in our shaker
bed, Elizabeth of the tumbling

Brown ringlets. Of eloping with the brown-
haired adonis who came to the door

All this while eating our fill, sharing two ex-
travagant desserts

Then rolling home,

Knowing the best daydreams

Have a life of their own.

OLD DOG

I watch you lying in the sun on your better
days

Old, tired bones soaking up what little
warmth

The universe still holds for an old dog.

Coat neglected, chewed, host to parades of

Unconquerable, merciless fleas.

And smelly, I do remember that,

An undeniable, ugly fact.

You really smell.

But I remember too how you did love

How children tumbled carelessly all over you
And got adoring looks and happy panting in
return.

Recall that day a wild curly-headed toddler

Made her break for the road

And you shepherded her like an old pro

Those deep, patient sighs from your position
as a rug

Waiting for me to walk you

And then when I could no longer walk

You wouldn't leave my side

Believing like me it would be any minute

That I would jump up and grab the leash.

You became a nuisance to the ones in charge

The smell, the bulk, the fleas

(since we are being honest here,

You always were part nuisance)

So now shuttled between solitary in the hall

And lonely pees in the yard,

You seem a bit defeated

Love hasn't conquered all

We've both seen better days.

Perhaps like me you live in hope that those
days will return

When neglect was just silly human foible

Not the result of grief and numbness

When much fuss would have been made

About your lying on the chaise lounge.

And you could dream each year

Of next Passover and its bone

When even you and I

Will welcome the messiah.

[From the Atlanta Journal-Constitution,
Feb. 26, 1997]

MARJORIE HIRSCHBERG, 54, ADVOCATE—
FOUGHT FOR RIGHTS OF WOMEN, KIDS

(By Malcolm X Abram)

Marjorie Hirschberg spent much of her adult life committed to helping others. As a homemaker, she watched over her family. As an advocate, she fought for the rights of women and children. And finally, as a victim of Lou Gehrig's disease, she underwent an experimental treatment in hopes of providing a future for herself and others.

Ms. Hirschberg, 54, died Saturday of respiratory failure related to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis—the official name for Lou Gehrig's disease—at St. Joseph's Hospital. The funeral will be a 11 a.m. Sunday at Green Lawn Funeral Home.

Ms. Hirschberg was a native of New Jersey who graduated cum laude from Vassar and later received her master's degree in special education from Bank Street College of Education in New York.

When her family relocated to Atlanta, she briefly taught children with learning disabilities at the Atlanta Speech School before becoming a full-time homemaker, according to her husband, Dick Tauber of Atlanta.

"I was inspired by Marjorie. . . . She was the kind of woman and mother I would want to be," said her friend Audrey Galex. "I've tried to pattern myself after her because she had her priorities straight. Her family and the community came first."

Ms. Hirschberg's devotion to the community was well documented at her daughter Elizabeth's school, Sagamore Elementary, where she taught a special education class and worked with the PTA to bring in more arts-related programs.

Ms. Hirschberg was also active in women's rights issues. As a member of the National Council for Jewish Women, she lobbied for women's and children's rights at the Georgia Capitol. She also co-produced "Atlanta Women's Voices," a public access cable program that discussed issues of particular import to women.

"Something about her was very ethical," said friend and fellow lobbyist Sara Ghitis. "She was a gentle person who had everything about her in the right place."

Ms. Ghitis said that when Ms. Hirschberg found out about her disease, she was furious. "She said, 'I'm not ready to die with all the things I have yet to do in this world,'" Ms. Ghitis said.

When the disease began to severely limit her communication and motor abilities, Ms. Hirschberg sought alternative treatments. "Marjorie had a lot of courage to try this new procedure," said Mr. Tauber. "And she got to go to her son's graduation, which meant a lot to her."

"She told me that as long as I can see my kids, I want to remain alive," said Ms. Galex. "I lost a real role model."

Surviving in addition to her husband and daughter are her son, Ethan Hirsch-Tauber of Atlanta; her parents, Ada and Bernard Hirschberg of Red Bank, N.J.; and a brother, Robert M. Hirschberg of Tustin Ranch, Calif.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL PATTERSON

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Russell Patterson,

a major contributor to the arts community in Missouri and a friend of mine who is retiring after 40 years as founder and Artistic Leader of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. He also organized The Kansas City Symphony and has served as its Artistic Director.

In addition to his position with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, he is Festival Director and Principal Conductor at the Sunflower Music Festival as well as founder and serving as Artistic Director of the Buzzards Bay Musicfest. Mr. Patterson also is credited for founding the Missouri River Festival of the Arts in Boonville, Missouri. He has appeared as guest conductor in opera and concert engagements in Mexico City, London, New York, Seattle, Cincinnati, and Sacramento.

Mr. Patterson has spent his career enriching Kansas City with his talent and vision. He is a graduate of the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He helped establish the Middle-America Opera Apprentice Program in conjunction with the Conservatory. The Apprentice Program is designed to prepare exceptional young singers for a professional operatic career. The Program continues to gain national recognition for its commitment to aspiring artists.

As a trailblazer in the arts community, Mr. Patterson has served on the Advisory panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Missouri Arts Council, as a consultant to the Ford foundation, and on the Board of Directors of OPERA America. He has received numerous awards and honors including the Alumni Achievement Award, the Dean's Awards, the nationally prestigious Conductor's Award from the Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, and the W.F. Yates Medalion from William Jewell College. In 1996, Mr. Patterson was honored at the OPERA America 25th Anniversary Conference for his years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Russell Patterson for his commitment to our community's future artists and his service in music in Kansas City. I wish he and his lovely wife Terri well in all of their future endeavors, and hope we can enjoy some tennis at the Cape.

RETIRED CITIZENS MONTH IN ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Governor Fob James in recognition of Western Hills of North Alabama Advantage for Relocation and Retirement during Retired Citizens Month in Alabama.

North Alabama is home to a significant number of retired citizens. Due to the beautiful natural environment and pleasant weather, people find North Alabama a comfortable place to retire. I commend the people at Western Hills for being fine ambassadors of the State of Alabama and improving the quality of life for all in our State.

I would like to insert into the RECORD the Governor's proclamation in recognition of Retired Citizens Month in Alabama.

Whereas, the Western Hills of North Alabama Advantage for Relocation and Retirement

is dedicated to the development of a positive image of North Alabama; and

Whereas, the Western Hills of North Alabama for Relocation and Retirement promotes community activities, recreational opportunities, historical sites, and many other unique attractions that are indigenous to North Alabama so that more of the nation's retirees will want to relocate to our great state during their retirement years; and

Whereas, retirees carry tremendous importance to the State of Alabama, contributing greatly to our employment, economic prosperity, and international trade relations; and

Whereas, retirees not only contribute to our State through financial means but through their sharing of a lifetime of experience and knowledge that can be passed down to our younger generations of Alabamians; and

Whereas, the State of Alabama supports the Western Hills of North Alabama Advantage for Relocation and Retirement for its efforts to increase the numbers of retirees that relocate to our state:

Now therefore I, Fob James, Jr., Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim June 1998 as Retired Citizens Month in Alabama, to further show our State's appreciation for the retired population.

March 18, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, join me in recognizing June as Retired Citizens Month in Alabama.

IN HONOR OF RUTH R. CRONE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ruth R. Crone's outstanding leadership on the occasion of her retirement from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). For thirty years, she has helped guide the Washington region through an era of tremendous growth and change.

As the Executive Director, Ruth was responsible for the overall administration of COG as well as supervising the development and implementation of COG's policies and programs. She served as the Director of Human Resources and Public Safety from 1980 to 1988, and as the Director of the Department of Human Resources from 1972 to 1980.

The Council of Governments, founded in 1957, is an independent, non-profit association composed of the eighteen local governments in the Washington metropolitan area. The COG develops and implements programs in response to regional concerns such as growth, transportation, air and water quality, child care, crime, and economic development.

Ruth also serves as the Executive Vice President of the Center for Public Administration and Service, board member of the D.C. Agenda Support Corporation, ex-officio board member of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, and editor for the Regionalist, the publication of the National Association of Regional Councils. She is a frequent speaker at area universities and association meetings, has appeared on local and national radio and television talk shows and news programs, and has testified before numerous Congressional committees.

Prior to joining COG in 1969, Ruth worked as a planner with the Northeastern Illinois

Planning Commission in Chicago and the Baltimore Department of Housing and Community Development, and as a health planner with the Public Health Federation of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ruth has been honored many times for her contributions to public service and for her successful career. Her awards include the National Public Service Award from the American Society for Public Administration and the National Academy for Public Administration, the 1998 Alumni Achievement Award from Muhlenberg College, and the International City/County Management Association's Professional Development Award. Washingtonian magazine named her one of the region's most influential leaders in 1992, and one of the region's most powerful women in 1994 and 1997.

Ruth received her undergraduate degree in sociology from Muhlenberg College and obtained her Master's Degree in Community Planning from the University of Cincinnati.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Ruth on her outstanding career and many achievements. Her leadership at the Council of Governments will be missed, but her accomplishments never forgotten. The groundwork Ruth has laid will continue to sow the seeds of success for the metropolitan region.

DRED SCOTT COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE BILL

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation authorizing the U.S. Park Service to install a plaque to commemorate the Dred Scott decision at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Old Courthouse is part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JNEM) which was created by Congress to commemorate and illustrate many of the historic events which occurred during this nation's westward expansion. The purpose of JNEM is to foster an awareness and understanding of those who settled the vast frontier region west of the Mississippi River.

In keeping with its mission to commemorate the significant occurrences in the westward expansion of the United States, this legislation authorizes the National Park Service to install a plaque advising visitors that the Dred Scott case was tried at this Courthouse and enlightening them to the debate over slavery that was launched by the landmark Supreme Court ruling in the 1857 case of Dred Scott v. Sandford.

Dred Scott, a slave who sought his freedom on the basis that he had lived in free territory, lost his case and his appeal to the Supreme Court. He did not live to see the end of slavery. However, by fighting for his freedom, Dred Scott made a great contribution to this nation. Historians consider the Dred Scott decision to be among the key events that triggered the Civil War. In it, the Supreme Court ruled that slaves could not be citizens of the United States and could not sue in federal courts. But the Supreme Court did not stop here. In an effort to put an end to the debate over slavery, under the leadership of Chief